

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



**TIMOTHY J. CRUZ**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**MAIN OFFICE:**  
32 Belmont Street  
P.O. BOX 1665  
Brockton, MA 02303-1665  
Tel: (508) 584-8120  
Fax: (508) 586-3578

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release:**  
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**Contact: ADA Bridget Norton Middleton**  
**(508) 584-8120**

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**BROCKTON, MA-** Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz today announced that the Supreme Judicial Court has denied convicted murderer Carolyn Riley's application for further appellate review of the Massachusetts Appeals Court's September 20, 2013 decision that affirmed her conviction for second degree murder. The denial ends Carolyn Riley's state court avenues of appeal.

An application for further appellate review is the method by which a losing party at the Appeals Court asks the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to take the case. The SJC refused to do so.

District Attorney Cruz stated, "It has been a long road to get justice for Rebecca. With this denial by the SJC, the conviction of Carolyn Riley for murdering her own four-year-old daughter is now final."

Carolyn Riley's codefendant, Rebecca's father, Michael Riley, was tried separately and convicted of first degree murder by extreme atrocity or cruelty. His conviction has been affirmed recently by the SJC and is final.

Rebecca Riley was murdered on Wednesday December 13, 2006. The defendant was convicted on February 9, 2010. The evidence showed that Rebecca's death was caused by polysubstance overdose, the combined effects of Clonidine, valproic acid (Depakote), dextromethorphan, and chlorpheniramine. At age two Rebecca was taken to a psychiatrist, Doctor Kyoko Kifuji, with trumped up symptoms to secure a psychiatric diagnosis sufficient to get prescribed medications to make her sleep, and to secure Social Security Disability Benefits.

The evidence also showed that Rebecca was routinely abused with the medications. A week before she died, Rebecca became extremely ill. Although housemates witnessed this, and repeatedly begged the defendant, with threats of violence, to take her to the emergency room, the defendant refused. Rebecca's condition continued to deteriorate, to the point where she became "totally oblivious," "completely incoherent," and "zombie-like." Instead of medical care, Rebecca received increasing amounts of sedatives, including clonidine. In the morning, Rebecca

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was found dead on the floor – lying on magazines, without a blanket, and wearing only a pull-up diaper – next to her parents' bed.

This case was prosecuted at trial by First Assistant District Attorney Frank J. Middleton and Assistant District Attorney Heather Bradley. The case was prosecuted on appeal by Assistant District Attorney Gail M. McKenna. The case was investigated by State Police Detectives assigned to the Plymouth County DA's Office and the Hull Police Department.

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